

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-239-C - ORDER NO. 2002-792
NOVEMBER 18, 2002

IN RE: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for an Intrastate Universal Service Fund.) ORDER LIFTING STAY,) SETTING HEARING) AND ESTABLISHING) PREFILING DATES
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This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on requests from Bluffton Telephone Company, Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Hargray Telephone Company, Home Telephone Company, Horry Telephone Cooperative and PBT Telecom (collectively known as the Petitioning ILECs) and from the Commission Staff (the Staff). The Petitioning ILECs request that the Commission lift its stay of further proceedings in this Docket.

In Order No. 2002-644, the Commission issued a stay of the present matter involving the Petitioning ILECs. This stay was ordered by the Commission in accordance with Judge Kinard's Order dated August 23, 2002, issuing a temporary stay of further USF proceedings. By Order of the Court dated September 30, 2002, Judge Kinard ruled on the merits of the case and lifted the court's temporary stay of the proceedings.

In Order No. 2002-644, this Commission stated that should the stay of the Circuit Court be lifted, we would issue a new scheduling order in the present proceeding, and the six companies would be able to file and serve testimony and exhibits again in this matter.

Accordingly, the Petitioning ILECs request that we issue a new scheduling Order in this proceeding.

We hereby lift the stay in this proceeding, and set the hearing on this matter for **Wednesday, January 29, 2003 at 10:30 a.m.** in the offices of the Commission. In accordance with the newly scheduled hearing date, we establish the following as a schedule for pre-filing of testimony and exhibits. Pursuant to 26 S.C. Regs.103-869(C)(Supp. 2001), the Commission hereby orders that twenty-five copies of the testimony and exhibits of the Applicants shall be pre-filed on or before **December 31, 2002**, and that twenty-five copies of the testimony and exhibits of the Commission Staff and/or any intervenors shall be pre-filed on or before **January 15, 2003**. (Material may be post-marked on these dates.) Also, any rebuttal testimony and exhibits shall be pre-filed on or before **January 22, 2003**, and any surrebuttal testimony and exhibits shall be pre-filed on or before **January 24, 2003**. (Material must be in the offices of the Commission and in the hands of the parties on these dates.) It should be noted that acceptance into the record of surrebuttal testimony and exhibits is subject to the discretion of the Commission.

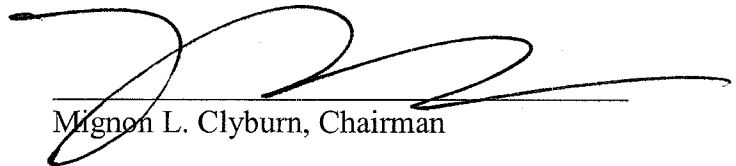
In addition, parties shall serve their pre-filed testimony and exhibits on all other parties of record as required by the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All parties are reminded that all witnesses must be present during any hearing in this matter at the call of the Chairman, or the Commission may decline to allow the witnesses' testimony to be read into the record of the proceeding, and/or may decline to allow the witnesses' exhibits to be entered into the evidence of the case.

Please take note that any party requesting modification of this schedule must file a request for such modification with the Commission.

Also, Staff requests that the intrastate universal service factor be recalculated effective December 1, 2002, based on revenues reported as of December 31, 2001, once the Commission has completed the hearing on the request for additional universal service support filed by the Petitioning ILECs. Further adjustments to the intrastate Universal Service Fund Factor will be made as needed under the Staff's proposal. We grant the Staff's request, also. Updating the Fund calculation will help the accuracy of the Fund.

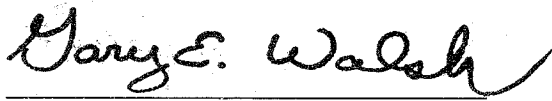
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Mignon L. Clyburn, Chairman

ATTEST:



Gary E. Walsh, Executive Director

(SEAL)